

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 051693

62

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 /022 R

66603

DRAFTED BY: AF:JWHITING/D:RWDUEMLING

APPROVED BY: D:RWDUEMLING

AF:EWMULCAHY

S/S-REWOODS

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R 072228Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2D LAST LINE TO READ  
MIDDLE EAST)

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH AF AMBASSADORS: DAVIS NOMINATION

1. AT DEPARTMENT'S INITIATIVE ACTING SECRETARY MET  
AFTERNOON MARCH 6 FOR AN HOUR WITH ALL THIRTY-THREE OF  
CHIEFS OF MISSION AND CHARGES OF AF REGION (EXCEPT SOUTH  
AFRICA) CONCERNING NOMINATION NATHANIEL DAVIS AS ASST.  
SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

2. MEETING WAS CONVENED IN EIGHTH FLOOR JEFFERSON ROOM  
AND REFRESHMENTS SERVED TO SET INFORMAL TONE. ACTING  
SECRETARY STATED THAT GROUP HAD BEEN CALLED IN AT SPECIFIC  
REQUEST OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THAT HE HOPED EACH WOULD  
CONVEY KEY POINTS TO HIS GOVERNMENT:

A. CONFIDENCE OF PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY IN AMB. DAVIS;  
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PAGE 02 STATE 051693

B. OUTSTANDING PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALITIES OF  
NOMINEE;

C. IMPORTANCE OF RECOGNIZING DISTINCTION BETWEEN MAN AND  
POST IN WHICH HE HAS OR WILL SERVE;

D. INACCURACY OF RUMORS THAT DAVIS HAD BEEN PROPOSED FOR  
AN AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENT (STATE 041637). ACTING  
SECRETARY ALSO EXTENDED SECRETARY'S INVITATION TO MEET  
WITH HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HIS RETURN FROM MIDDLE  
EAST.

3. ACTING SECRETARY OPENED MEETING FOR QUESTIONS AND  
SEVEN CHIEFS OF MISSION SPOKE. TWO (GUINEA AND ZAIRE)  
EXPRESSED THANKS FOR CHANCE TO MEET WITH ACTING SECRETARY  
AND PROMISED TO REPORT TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS. FIVE  
(LIBERIA, BOTSWANA, NIGERIA, GHANA AND TANZANIA) EXPRESSED  
RANGE OF CRITICISMS INCLUDING SUGGESTION THAT SECRETARY  
KISSINGER SHOULD HAVE MET WITH GROUP, MEETING SHOULD HAVE  
BEEN CALLED EARLIER AND AS VEHICLE TO DISCUSS OAU RESOLU-  
TION, AFRICANS SHOULD BE AT LIBERTY TO EXPRESS OPINION  
ABOUT USG APPOINTMENT OF SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THEM,  
ETC.

4. ACTING SECRETARY RESPONDED TO THESE POINTS CALMLY  
BUT DIRECTLY, DRAWING ON LANGUAGE OF SECRETARY'S LETTER  
TO OAU SECRETARY GENERAL (STATE 040694). HE AGAIN STRESSED  
DAVIS' CREDENTIALS, FACT THAT APPOINTMENT INDICATED  
SERIOUS INTEREST IN AFRICA, AND THAT WE UNDERSTAND AFRICAN  
INTEREST THOUGH CONTEND THAT APPOINTMENT IS AN INTERNAL  
MATTER.

5. ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON THE FOREGOING IN DISCUSSIONS  
WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS AND SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT MARCH 6  
MEETING WAS AT DEPARTMENT'S INITIATIVE AND NOT REPEAT NOT  
AS RESULT OF AFRICAN AMBASSADORS PRESSING FOR ONE AS  
IMPLIED IN SOME PRESS ACCOUNTS. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, US, XA, (DAVIS, NATHANIEL)  
**To:** AF POSTS MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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